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Chapter VI. Processing of Material

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Processing of material in OCD included the receipt, dissemination, and storage and recording of the items received in such fashion that they could be retrieved efficiently. OCD had developed several systems for the processing of the many kinds of materials it received. No single system was adequate enough for all the requirements that had to be built into an information retrieval program covering such a broad spectrum. The format of the material, for example, dictated that films and photographs had to be processed differently from documents; security entered into the method of processing special, sensitive documents in SR; urgency determined the immediate dissemination of cables, without any indexing.

Some idea of the scope of OCD's volume of material received can be obtained from a few sample statistics for FY1955. These are monthly averages: 1)



and subscriptions were procured in the open literature field.

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During the transition period, 1957-58 (see Chapter IV), the new administration of OCR introduced a revised system for statistical reporting. Some FY1959 statistics are reported here not by way of contrast with those in the previous paragraph (they are non-comparable) but only to accentuate the magnitude of the processing work-load and to give an idea of the sizes of the various OCR files.

*These figures do not include thousands of special type documents (mostly in single copy) that were received direct by the several Registers for processing into their reference files.

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